The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1913 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 49

# AFL Unions Approve All-Out Political Drive In 1948

## TEXT OF PROGRAM

*Washington, D. C.—Following is the text of the statement adopted unanimously by the conference of presidents of AFL national and international unions establishing and setting forth the organization and purposes of Labor's Educational and Political League:*

The United States Congress having placed unwarrantable and highly destructive limitations and restrictions upon the rights of wage earners to voluntary organization and their effective functioning in the industrial as well as the legislative and political fields, it is imperative that labor, organized as well as unorganized, meet this challenge of unwarrantable limitations and restrictions upon the rights and liberties of the workers of America.

The enactment of the Taft-Hartley law has not only awakened a greater interest in political action on the part of labor; indeed, its provisions, particularly as they relate to political activities on the part of our trade unions make it imperative for labor to organize in the political field under terms and conditions required by the Taft-Hartley law if we are to reestablish the rights of the workers of America in the free and voluntary organization for mutual benefit and advancement and for their full participation in all matters affecting the well-being of wage earners and the welfare of the public good. At no previous time in history have the rank and file members, as well as the leaders of labor been so aroused to the necessity and imperative need of organization on the political field.

The real import of the Taft-Hartley law has, as yet, not been experienced. This is fast coming to pass as more and more of our trade unions, as well as fair employers and leaders of industry come to conference for purposes of continuing their former peaceful and cooperative relations and under terms and conditions heretofore laid down by mutual legal and sound practice and experience as safe and sound from every point of view. It is difficult to understand that that which was constitutional, right, sound and proper yesterday should be unlawful and unsound today. An immediate result has already developed wherein bitter feelings has increased and, wherein both Management and Labor are resorting to various devices and subterfuges to evade and avoid an ill-conceived, unwarranted and destructive contractual agreement. Legislation that drives workers and management to resort to such methods is certainly not in the interests of the public good and does not make for industrial peace.

There are many other issues agitating the peace of mind of wage earners, organized and unorganized. We shall not attempt to enumerate them here in a number of states. While every effort is being made through the courts to frustrate these unconstitutional and unwarrantable restrictions upon the wage earners of our land and upon their trade unions, nevertheless, these efforts must be supplemented by political action. Labor has had to learn by its losses as high prices, housing, health, wage and hour legislation, the growth of corporate control, monopoly, centralization of capital, sound and proper use of the workers of our land.

A number of our International Unions, State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies have already established various mechanisms for carrying on political activities. Their coordination and extension of these efforts is eminently desirable. Our immediate task is to bring to a realization to our people everywhere the imperative need and to galvanize the workers of America, their friends and sympathizers into concrete action along defined public-political channels.

It was in this spirit and to the attainment of these objectives that the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor held in San Francisco, California, October 6th to the 10th last, recommended the formation of "Labor's Educational and Political League" and the calling of a conference of the officials of the AFL National and International Unions for the purpose of considering all the ramifications and methods of procedure for the purpose of completing the structure, outlining the methods of procedure and in giving early and effective realization to the political activities made imperative under present conditions and circumstances.

### Convention Recommendations

The convention recommended that:

1. It shall be the duty of "Labor's Educational and Political League" to prepare and disseminate information by such media of communication as the league may decide for the purpose of acquainting the workers of the nation with the economic and political policies of the American Federation of Labor.

2. The league shall prepare and disseminate information concerning the attitude of candidates for nomination and/or election to federal offices, with particular reference to their attitudes toward the political and economic policies of the American Federation of Labor.

3. The league shall take such other actions as it may deem advisable in furtherance of its objectives.

4. The league shall provide for the raising of necessary funds, for the conduct of its business, in such manner as it may determine.

5. The league shall be authorized to employ staff members necessary to conduct its business and fix their compensation and expenses.

### Structure and Procedure

To effectuate these purposes and attain these objectives, the convention directed the calling of this conference of presidents of the affiliated National and International Unions. In so doing the following plan was submitted for consideration and disposition by the conference as will meet the wholehearted approval of all affiliated unions, and will be acceptable and workable to all persons and organizations interested in the preservation and perpetuity of the rights and liberties of free trade unions and free labor as well as of free enterprise.

1. A national committee shall be set up, consisting of the following:

(a) The American Federation of Labor Executive Council members.

(b) The presidents of all the National and International Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

2. The national committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary-treasurer for the league for the year 1948.

3. An administrative committee consisting of the members of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. and of eight (8) presidents of affiliated National and International Unions selected by the national committee. The administrative committee is authorized to add members from Executive Board or additional members not to exceed five as circumstances and the best interests of the league may require.

4. That each National and International Union set up its own committee for the purpose of raising funds and such other duties as time and experience require. It is also proposed that the national committee of the league be formed to operate under the direction of the National and International Union campaign committees to carry out the purposes of the league.

5. State Federations of Labor and City Central Labor Unions shall set up state and city-wide committees independent of the league through which shall embrace representation of each craft and class organized in the state and/or city; and as far as practicable, from local Congressional Districts for consideration and disposition by the conference as will meet the wholehearted approval of all affiliated unions, and will be acceptable and workable to all persons and organizations interested in the preservation and perpetuity of the rights and liberties of free trade unions and free labor as well as of free enterprise.

6. The national committee shall meet whenever called into conference by the administrative committee and/or when petitioned by at least a majority number of affiliates.

7. The administrative committee and all other committees shall meet at such time and places as may be determined by them and as conditions and needs as may be adopted by them.

8. A national director and such staff as may be necessary shall be appointed by the administrative committee to direct and manage the activities of the league under guidance and direction of the administrative committee.

9. Regional directors may be appointed by the administrative committee to advise and guide local groups and assist in the formation of campaign, to help them to cooperate with other elements in the community and to correlate the work of the different groups.

10. A cooperative alliance may be formed with friendly and cooperative groups in the various Congressional Districts, such as nonconmunist liberal organizations and which groups are representative of both the local committees concerned and of the administrative committee.

### Tasks of the L. E. P. L.

1. A national headquarters shall be set up to assist local organizations, particularly in the fields of research and publicity. Its duties shall include:

(a) Compiling detailed records on candidates for federal offices from their speeches.

(b) Preparing radio material, including recordings of dramatic programs, short spot announcements, etc.

(c) Preparing model speeches and press releases.

(d) Preparing model ad layouts for newspapers, preparing handbills, etc.

(e) Preparing special features, with charts, cartoons, etc., for labor papers.

(f) Coordinating the work of state and local committees through regional organizers or offices to the end that thorough organization may be effected from precinct to state levels.

2. The administrative committee, after consultation and advice of State Federations of Labor and City Central Labor Unions, shall recommend Congressional and Senatorial endorsements subject to the approval of the national committee.

### Character of Campaign

1. It is of utmost importance to bring about the largest possible registration of eligible voters, particularly in the primaries, and to participate in getting out the votes.

In this connection, attention is called to action of the recent A. F. of L. convention favorably approving the policy of mobilizing labor's strength so that it can be made most effective on election day, or both, legal holidays, legislation making either unnecessary. In connection with this matter the convention recommended that "affiliated unions include provisions which continue to bestow collective bargaining opportunity to further provide that would assure the workers a holiday or an adequate opportunity for the effective exercise of their essential obligations as citizens to participate in the elections they can, and which they should play in the election of public officials."

2. The broadest possible cooperation of friendly, fraternal and sympathetic groups is to be encouraged.

3. Thought should be given to the manner of enlisting reasonable support of the membership, of employes of federal, state and municipal governments and of employes of corporations doing business with the federal, state and/or other laws restricting such employes engaging in political activities.

4. Women's auxiliaries should be a part of the organization of the league and their work should be given on all occasions.

5. The Taft-Hartley law shall be one of the principle issues in noting the candidates' records on that law, and a vigorous campaign designed to benefit the workers and their trade unions as well as measures designed for the public good.

6. The administrative committee shall determine the Congressional and Senatorial Districts where the efforts of the league shall be concentrated. Wherever primary elections are the determining factor, stress is to be laid on the primary campaign.

7. A constant and ever progressive educational and public relations program is to be engaged in making use of all media of communication and contacts for the dissemination of facts.

### Financing of Campaign

As indicated in the recommendations adopted at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor, funds for the conduct of the L. E. P. L. shall be made imperative by the Taft-Hartley law, through voluntary contributions. Trade union funds cannot be used for this purpose.

To that end, it is proposed:

1. A special finance committee be appointed consisting of such members as the administrative committee may determine. Further, that such finance committee, in addition to designing the plan for carrying on the appeal for voluntary contributions, prepare and recommend from time to time to the administrative committee the budgeting and distribution of funds received.

2. It is proposed that each National and International Union appoint its own committee to carry on the campaign for voluntary political campaign contributions. It is suggested, in this connection, that a goal of not less than one dollar ($1.00) per member be set for 1948 and that at least fifty cents (50c) of each one dollar ($1.00) contributed be allocated to the league, and the other less be disposed of by local or National International Unions campaign committees as may be directed by them. It is further proposed that the local committees cooperate with all local and International Unions in this appeal.

3. The administrative committee shall determine the amount of funds to be allocated to the league from time to time by the state and other committees.

It is urgent that all local, National and International Unions cooperate to the fullest extent in this appeal and leave no stone unturned to make the success of the campaign about to be inaugurated.

The AFL Weekly News Service is pleased to commend the rules of the league to meet any legal requirements that may appear.

### Conclusion

As stated at the recent A. F. of L. convention, if we are to serve most effectively the interests of the workers of the nation and adequately to meet the challenge presented by predatory and vested interests, we must then wholeheartedly respond to the urgency of the occasion and unitedly cooperate in the highest possible degree to the early attainment of the ends for which it is proposed to form and launch Labor's Educational and Political League —viz., the restoration of the rights of labor as heretofore enjoyed and the application of a more sound and equitable labor relations policy on the part of our nation and a more wholesome life and fairer and more equitable distributions of the fruits of industry—of management and labor under a system of free enterprise, free trade unions and free workers.

## Nation to Achieve 60,000,000 Jobs in '48 For Second Time, Employment Head Says

Washington, D. C.—Employment in 1948 will probably hit the previously attained record of 60,000,000 jobs, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, predicted.

Meanwhile the Census Bureau reported that employment in November dropped just over 600,000 because of seasonal declines in farm work. Nonagricultural employment continued to rise, however, to new levels, the bureau declared.

Mr. Goodwin said his "best information" was that national employment would hover around record levels most of next year. Although farm labor would be scarce, he said, the government services planning a campaign to recruit agricultural workers.

In this connection, the government has reached a new agreement with Mexico to permit the importation of Mexicans for farm work next year when the country's farm labor supply runs short.

Watson B. Miller, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, said the agreement was an extension of a wartime practice begun in 1943. The wartime arrangement, however, limited importation of Mexicans only to 100,000 annually. The new agreement will have no limitation.

Mr. Goodwin said that the employment service was "assuming the responsibility for recruiting farm labor at a time when it is not generally available for agriculture than since the end of the war."

"The demand for farm labor in 1948 probably will be the greatest in peacetime history," he said.

Mr. Goodwin said that officials of the employment service over the country were meeting regularly with state farm organizations and food processors' groups to determine farm labor needs for needs and to develop programs for supplying them.

He said the job was a big one and would "require the closest cooperation and sacrifice, by the employment service, farmers and other groups and individuals concerned with the maximum production of food."

## AFL's Metal Polishers Union Honored For Veterans' Rehabilitation Program

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers International Union was honored by the American War Dads organization for its outstanding aid and cooperative program for veterans injured in World War II.

At a recent convention of presidents of AFL national and international unions a beautiful bronze plaque was presented to Ray Kelsey, union president, by Gen. Milo Stadtfeld, past national president of the American War Dads.

Stadtfeld declared that the award was authorized by the 1947 annual convention of the American War Dads in recognition of the service rendered by the union's veterans rehabilitation program.

The plaque was engraved with the following inscription:

"The preservation of the dignity of each individual human being is the foundation of society and government."

"In the aftermath of war that wrecked spiritual and physical values on many boys, understanding of duty to the principles of human relative offtimes is dimmed.

"In convention assembled, the American War Dads give unanimous approval and do award this plaque to the truisms of the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers International Union, affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, for blending of the skills of brave and patient men with compassion and love in the rehabilitation program of their veteran-divisions.

"Character is the measure of nobility. Artisans sharing their craftsmanship with others to the end that ability supplants disability, courage becomes realization, and hope becomes reality, is exemplification of the highest ideals of democracy and of holy mandate.

"Here is a most outstanding and constructive program instituted in the industries of the United States for the sons of men injured in useful employment. It is an honor and credit this award."

Accepting the plaque with Mr. Kelsey were Dennis Oates, vice president of the union, and Joseph Tuck, legislative representative for the AFL.

## Rail Labor Forms Political League

Washington, D. C.—In action paralleling that of the American Federation of Labor, presidents of 18 railroad labor organizations have formed "Labor's Political League."

The chief purposes of the league will be to see that the 1,250,000 railroad workers in the nation are registered and to inform them of each Congressman's record of anti-labor legislation and votes.

To finance the campaign, officials of the railroad brotherhoods said they would depend upon voluntary contributions from their members and friends. They said the Taft-Hartley law's ban upon use of union funds for political purposes.

The preamble to the by-laws of the political league states that the organization was formed to "encourage railway workers to more fully and effectively exercise their right to vote and to inform them."

1. Of the attitude of candidates for public office toward labor and the economic problems of railway workers.

2. Of the voting records, statements and other actions of candidates for public office in matters which involve the interests of such workers.

3. Of the position of various railway labor organizations with respect to the qualifications of such candidates and "to do such things as may be deemed necessary to inform railway workers as to the qualifications of such candidates."

A. E. Lyon, executive secretary of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, was elected chairman of the league.

In addition to Mr. Lyon, officers of the league are: A. F. Whitney, president of the Order of Railroad Conductors and chairman of the Railroad Labor Executives' Association, vice chairman, and H. E. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, Secretary-treasurer.

Other members of the executive committee are Daniel B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Locomotive Firemen and Engineers; George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks; A. J. Glover, president and editor of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers; Clyde M. Jay, president of the Brotherhood of the Master Mates and Pilots Association; and Joseph P. Ryan, president of the Railway Employes Department of the AFL.

## DIRECTORY OF STATE MEDIATION AGENCIES

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Department has released the following in a new bulletin entitled "State Authorities Engaged in Mediation and Conciliation Activities."

Issued under the Taft-Hartley law places new emphasis upon mediation and conciliation activities, the bulletin gives information about state mediation agencies, the duties of state authorities, and their mediatory powers.

The bulletin is available from the Division of Labor Standards in the Department of Labor.

## AFL'S RETAIL CLERKS WIN NLRB ELECTION

Elizabethton, Tenn.—A newly formed local of the Retail Clerks International Union, an AFL affiliate, won an NLRB election here at the Montgomery Ward Co. plant, according to an announcement by E. F. Dean, AFL organizer.

Mr. Dean said that 30 out of 32 clerks voted in favor of the union in the collective bargaining election. A contract is now being drawn up for presentation to the company as part of the bargaining negotiations.

## OFFICERS ELECTED TO HEAD L. E. P. L.

Washington, D. C. — Officers elected by the conference of AFL unions officials to head "Labor's Educational and Political League" are as follows:

William Green, AFL president, national chairman.

George Meany, secretary-treasurer.

The conference also chose an administrative committee of 11 members. This committee includes the 15 members of the AFL Executive Council and the following persons:

Harry Bates of the Railway and Steamship Clerks; Joseph Childs of the Sheet Metal Workers; Hugo Ernst, of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes; Earl W. Jimerson of the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen; George Q. Lynch, of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers; Lewis G. Hines, of the General Board of the Congress of Industrial Organizations; Joseph P. McCurdy, of the United Garment Workers; William J. McSorley, of the Lathers; Joseph V. Moreschi, of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers; A. Philip Randolph, of the Sleeping Car Porters; John Rooney, of the Pressmen; and Joseph P. Ryan, of the Longshoremen; Harry Stevenson, of the Molders; Richard F. Walsh, of the Stage Hands, and Max Zaritsky, of the Hatters.

## *"Labor's Educational and Political League" Launched at Conference of Union Heads; To Seek $1 Each From AFL Members*

Washington, D. C.—In an historic move, the American Federation of Labor charted the course its political organization will follow in its efforts to oust the foes of labor from Congress and the state legislatures.

More than 200 top officials of the AFL's 105 national and international unions, at a special conference here, formally organized Labor's Educational and Political League" and called upon the AFL's nearly 8,000,000 members for voluntary contributions of a minimum of $1 each to finance its undertakings.

Plans for the league call for an intensive drive to get out the labor vote in 1948 and to inform AFL members concerning the position taken by candidates for election on the Taft-Hartley law and other vital problems affecting organized labor. A report embodying these purposes and setting forth details of organization and operation of the league was submitted by the AFL Executive Council and unanimously and enthusiastically approved by the conference.

AFL President William Green was named chairman of the league and George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, was elected to a corresponding position in the political organization.

The meeting set up a national committee composed of the AFL Executive Council and the presidents of the 105 national and international affiliated unions. This committee will have general supervision over the activities of the organization.

To direct its operations, the league will have a 30-member administrative committee consisting of the AFL Executive Council and 15 additional members. The administrative committee was authorized to expand to seven-teen if circumstances dictate by the appointment of not more than 5 additional members.

Swinging into action immediately after the conference, the administrative committee met and authorized Mr. Green and Mr. Meany to appoint headquarters personnel, finance, organization and the selection of an executive director for the league. These committees are scheduled to report to the administrative committee when it is expected to meet for a third time before the end of the year.

To carry the organization down to the "grass roots" level additional working committees will be set up by the national unions and their local affiliates, to be coordinated by state and city central bodies.

Funds in the form of voluntary contributions will be raised by the national and international unions. Half of the suggested $1 minimum contribution is to be turned over to the national league, the other half to be retained for use in the area in which the contribution was made. The league may reallocate funds to the state or city central body or congressional district when it can warrant the use of a greater sum than that normally retained in the area.

The program for the league has been drawn to counteract the so-called "nonCommunist organizations" which see eye-to-eye with the AFL on political issues, but refuse to cooperate with the CIO at the national level, AFL President William Green declared.

Commenting upon the steps taken by the AFL, its first venture into the political arena on a large scale, Mr. Green characterized the action as "historic" and declared that the league will "go to the rank and file members and friends and punishing our enemies." He voiced labor's determination to labor for the repeal of all anti-labor legislation and declared organization of the political league became necessary "because a reactionary Congress has fastened the shackles on labor."

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, told the conference that establishment of the league was not a departure from the AFL's traditional policy but was meant to give effect to that policy "in the light of modern conditions."

He predicted success for the AFL political undertaking and declared that labor's foes will find that "you cannot step on the people and get away with it indefinitely."

Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters Union, emphasized that the conference would lay a foundation for the future and that the result of the league's activities would be of great value to the workers in the nation regardless of the result of the 1948 election campaign.

## AFL's Free Trade Union Committee Seeks Funds to Carry on Activities

Washington, D. C.—An amazing picture of the accomplishments of the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee in the Communist sphere in the AFL's capture labor movements throughout the world was presented to labor leaders at a dinner marking the seventh year of the committee's existence and continuing the committee's work next year.

Step by step, Matthew Woll, the committee's chairman, described its work in various nations of Europe, Asia and Latin America, emphasizing the dangers to democracy and how hard far ahead of our own government in meeting the Communist threat and taking steps to prevent Soviet domination. He declared that Woll said that the committee had:

1—Helped to make our American foreign policy more vigorous and productive than otherwise it would have been.

2—Helped to defeat Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in United Nations and in attempting to bypass the International Trade Organization.

3—Given tangible support and aid to the free trade union movements of Europe and sent relief to distressed trade unionists.

4—Enlightened the members of the AFL Executive Council on the major international issues.

## APPRENTICESHIP AT NEW HIGH IN SKILLED TRADES

Washington, D. C.—The number of registered apprentices employed in the skilled trades reached an all-time high of 203,000 during 1947, Labor Department in the Apprentice-Training Service in the U. S. Labor Department said.

By registered apprentices are meant only those listed with a State Apprenticeship agency or, where none exists, with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, and employer under apprenticeship programs approved by these bodies. The federal committee is the national management-labor advisory body for the Apprentice-Training Service which gives technical assistance in setting up and maintaining apprenticeship programs.

The actual number of apprentices being trained under approved programs is slightly higher than 183,000, according to ATS. This, it was pointed out, is because many apprentices are trained before their agreements and because of delay on the part of employers in reporting apprenticeship committees in forwarding indentures to state agencies or the federal committee.

## FIREMEN AND OILERS JOIN LABEL TRADES UNIT

Washington, D. C.—J. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, announced the affiliation with the department of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers and expressed his appreciation for the action taken by the union's executive board.

AFL President William Green said that he was surprised the committee "could have done so much with so little." He pointed out that all AFL affiliates, many of whose leaders attended the dinner, had contributed to the committee's 1948 fund.

"In the past two and a half years, he said, the Free Trade Union Committee has been trying to do on its own account the very thing now contemplated by the National Program for preservation of democracy.

"In fact," he said, "the Marshall Plan is a complement to the American Federation of Labor. It constitutes an endorsement of what we have been trying to do through the Free Trade Union Committee ever since the war ended."

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer


The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor essential to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

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## TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER

*(Members of the law firm of Padway, Wolf, Thatcher, Glenn and Wilson, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)*

*This is the third of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of the article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said.*

NO. 3—THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

1. "The Right to Work"

The Post article takes the position that the "most basic right" conferred by the new law is the provision which outlaws the closed shop and permits a union shop only under certain limited conditions. This is misleading and purposeless.

In support of his position, the author cites several admittedly extreme examples of situations where unions have arbitrarily refused to accept employes into membership under closed-shop contracts or to admit persons to jobs expelled employes under closed-shop contracts, in both of which cases a job was lost. The author cites these abuses as sufficient reason not only for correcting the abuses but for outlawing the institution. In doing so, he purposely ignored the fact that these infringements are very isolated and extreme cases which do not justify the complete prohibition or rigid restriction of the closed shop and which have been subject to full and adequate relief for the purpose of curing a cold.

Further, the author neglects to note that, if such abuses do exist, they could be easily reached by regulations prohibiting arbitrary action in admission and expulsion of members of closed-shop agreements. As a matter of fact a remedy for such arbitrary action already exists in the common and statutory laws of the states in any case where a job is involved.

Further, the article did not note that the board under the old Wagner Act had already adopted various protective rules and court doctrine," unions are prevented, under certain conditions, from utilizing the closed shop to exert a power for dual unionism.

The article, while stating that the new law requires that the union shop under which employes can be required to join the union 30 days after they are hired, does not explain how the union shop has been rendered virtually meaningless.

To begin with, before a union-shop agreement can even be discussed with an employer, a great many requirements must be met. First, various reports, statements and affidavits, the latter attesting to the state of mind in respect to communism of a great many officers of unions, must be filed. Second, a particular plant and from the union which represents them, must first be filed. It must then be shown that the union commands a majority of the employes covered by the contract. Following this, an election must be held in which a majority of all those in the unit covered by the union shop (not just those voting, as is common in political elections) must indicate they desire a union shop.

Under this regulation the following can happen. Suppose there are 100 employes in the contract unit, and only 51 of them vote in the election, and but all 50 vote in favor of the union shop. The union shop is nevertheless prohibited because the majority of those in the unit did not support it. Further, this added election requirement casts an all but impossible burden upon the board. There are over 50,000 union agreements in the country. Finding board ordinarily conducts 5,000 representation elections a year, and it is still six months behind in its docket. Now, it must also conduct union-shop elections. If any issues are raised in connection with the unio-shop elections, it is easy to see how the board's representation docket would be put so long as two or three years while the board attempts to wade through its badge of cases.

The foregoing are only preliminary requirements; even after all of these requirements are fulfilled, the employer need not agree to a union-shop contract, but needs only listen to the union's arguments. Even if the employer does finally agree to the union shop, the agreement is limited to 12 months, and effect of the union shop does not begin with the employer need not live up to the agreement if he, in his own mind, believes that membership is not available to all persons on the same terms, or that the person whose discharge was requested was expelled for reasons other than nonpayment of dues or initiation fees. By this device, enforcement is contracted upon the employer's state of mind.

Even though the employer does desire to comply, the union can use the union shop only for the purpose of enforcing collection of dues. Thus, several of the principal functions of unions, such as the policing of an agreement by expelling persons who violate it, as by engaging in wildcat strikes, and the elimination of labor spies and saboteurs by causing their expulsion and discharge, have been eliminated.

Finally, even after it has been created, the union shop can be eliminated upon petition and vote of a majority of the employes voting, even though it takes a majority of the employes in the unit to create the union shop in the agreement to begin with.

The above discussion indicates how greatly the union-shop principle has been weakened. Our entire industrial history demonstrates conclusively that the preservation of existing organizations and the attainment of any substantial wage competition have been achieved primarily through use of the closed-shop or union-shop agreement. Under such agreements alone can employes be guaranteed an equality of bargaining power, and under that principle alone can union members be assured that the wages, union wages and working conditions, achieved through many sacrifices and struggles, will share in the costs of such benefits as members of the union rather than as "free riders." The law, however, requires unions to extend the benefits of collective bargaining, including wage increases, to all without the collective bargaining unit regardless of whether they are or are not union members.

Congress, in outlawing the closed shop and in limiting the union shop to practically meaningless, has all but destroyed the union-security principle in collective bargaining contracts. This action was taken despite the fact that prior to enactment of the Taft-Hartley law 80 percent of all collective agreements contained some effective union-security provision. In effect, while assuming the necessity of maintaining a strong trade union movement, Congress acted to cut the heart out of a principle which is designed to protect that strength.

## Rents Jump 5% Under New Control Law; Nearly 10% of Tenants Hit By Increase

Washington, D. C. — Residential rents jumped 5 percent in the nation's large cities since passage of the greatly weakened federal rent control law, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

This increase over a 4-month period contrasted with an increase of "only 1 percent" during almost 2 years of wartime rent controls, BLS declared.

The bureau blamed the 4-month increase principally upon the 15 percent "voluntary agreement" rent boosts permitted under terms of the Rent Act of 1947 which became effective last June 30. It also cited some "over-ceiling charges" controlled to a lesser degree.

Meanwhile, the Office of Housing Expediter reported that nearly 1,500,000 families are paying higher rents as a result of the "voluntary" signing of new leases. This figure represents nearly 10 percent of the nation's rent paying families and is an increase of over 100,000 during the month of November. The office said also the "total number of new leases is probably larger than 1,500,000, since that figure does not include the leases returned to landlords for various defects.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said it based its estimate that rents for the nation as a whole went up 5 percent from June 30 through October on the rent checks in some 29 cities. It said the increases ranged from 84 to 8 in each city.

"The rapid change reported in the four months contrasts sharply with the relative stability of rents under the stricter wartime rent controls," the report said.

"In the 32 months, September, 1939–May, 1942, rents advanced slightly more than 5 percent, but with the imposition of the general rent ceiling in June, 1942, residential rents were frozen at such or stabilized and in the 5-year period, from the summer of 1942 to July, 1947, rose only 5 percent.

"The rent surveys made thus far show that large increases have been made in apartments. Landlords of single-family houses in many cases appear to be reluctant to tie up their properties for as long as 18 months, with the potential possibilities of favorable sales offers.

The bureau's regular monthly consumers' price index showed increases while that living costs, as measured for average city dwellers, leveled off in October but remained at the same high shown in September.

## *Truman Will Ask Congress To Reorganize Labor Dept.*

Washington, D. C.—President Truman gave his backing to those who are intent upon rebuilding the Labor Department into a more effective instrument for service to American workers.

Mr. Truman told the press that he would ask Congress to approve an extensive governmental reorganization plan affecting the department.

The plan, he said, would provide a permanent home in the Labor Department for the United States Employment Service and the Unemployment Compensation Commission. The former of these agencies has often been the target for congressional criticism and has been shifted from pillar to post on more than one occasion.

Mr. Truman has stated his desire for a stronger Labor Department many times, and Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach still wants "all the labor bodies of government" in his department.

Mr. Schwellenbach told reporters in July 1945 when he assumed office, that he would come up with a plan inside of six months for putting his department jurisdiction over all the government's labor affairs. But the plan never materialized and the department has grown smaller during his two-and-a-half-year tenure.

The children's bureau was transferred to the Federal Security Agency some two years ago and Congress last year created a new reorganization plan that would have kept the employment service in the department after the war officially ended.

When it passed the Taft-Hartley labor act, Congress gave Mr. Schwellenbach his heaviest blow. It divided the labor department's conciliation service and created a new, independent Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to handle labor-management disputes. In addition, Congress drastically cut the Labor Department's budget, forcing a sharp curtailment in operations.

## Expenditures for New Homes Hit Peak; Account for 55% of Total Construction

Washington, D. C.—Expenditures for the construction of residential units set an all-time monthly high in November, although the value of total new construction activity dropped below the October figure, the Commerce Department's Statistics reported.

November figures showed an increase of 26 percent over the same month last year, the BLS reported. It said that the decline below the October level was less than usual for the month, 1,852,000 workers, was only 3 percent under. More than half reached in September, and exceeded November 1946 employment by 8 percent.

Privately financed new residential and new nonfarm homes resulted in expenditures of $625 million, $10 million more than in October. Spending for homebuilding in November accounted for 55 percent of all dollars spent and all workers employed on privately financed projects.

Since last May, expansion in commercial construction has continued to keep pace with housing. Expenditures for warehouses, stores, restaurants, etc., were close to $100 million in November, registering an 8-per-cent increase over October. Spending on other types of privately financed construction remained fairly stable with the same level or dipped moderately.

Public spending for the dollar volume of publicly financed construction resulted from decline in outdoor work normally affected by the onset of winter, the BLS said.

By the end of November, construction expenditures were close to $13½ billion for new and minor residential work in 1947, 60 percent more than was spent during the comparable period in 1946. More than half this increase in dollar volume occurred in privately financed residential construction.

Private spending showed an increase in construction of educational facilities. While the Veterans' Education Act of 1946 provided funds earlier in 1947, contracts by state and municipal authorities have increased, bringing expenditures for publicly financed educational facilities to an amount 2½ times greater in 1947 than in 1946, when the first 11 months are compared.

## Progress Made In Drive to Raise Funds For AFL Victims of Texas City Disaster

Galveston, Tex.—The Central Labor Union here reported progress in the drive to raise funds for the relief of families of AFL trade unionists who were killed or injured in the Texas City disaster of last April 16.

To render emergency assistance and to establish a trust fund, CLU, backed by 100 children of AFL members left fatherless by the explosion, set up the Galveston Labor Council and the Building and Construction Trades Council with a goal of $200,000 for the accomplishment of this purpose.

Commending the activities of the CLU, AFL President William Green issued an appeal to all AFL affiliates for voluntary contributions to the fund. He declared the purpose of the drive deserves "the cooperative support" of AFL members everywhere. He said:

"The suffering of our fellow workers and their families is a matter of deep interest and concern to us all. We cannot begin to comprehend the tragic circumstances which befell the Texas City disaster. Please contribute as liberally as possible to the fund being raised by the Galveston Labor Council.

"Send such contributions as you may find it possible to spare to: Mr. R. A. Gritta, Chairman, Committee for Texas City Relief, City of Galveston, Central Labor Union, Labor Temple, 218 Twenty-third Street, Galveston, Tex."

Mr. Green has reported gratifying results from the drive to raise the $200,000 goal. He emphasized the need for more contributions to secure the full amount of the fund-raising effort.

On the basis of incomplete reports reaching the AF L Weekly News Service the following AFL affiliates have responded to Mr. Green's appeal:

The Carpenters, $5,000; Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, $1,000; Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, $1,000; the Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union, $1,000; Workers Union, $250; and the Virginia State Federation of Labor, $50.

### AIR LINE PILOTS GAIN WAGE HIKE IN NEW PACT

New York City—The AFL's Air Line Pilots Association signed a new contract with Trans World Airlines for incorporating new wage increases for pilot members.

Master first pilots will receive yearly wages ranging from $900 to $1,130, an increase of $37 to $60 a month over the old scale. Master first pilots flying Boeing Stratocruisers, which are in the service of the airline, will also receive $2.50 an hour extra for every hour of reverse flight.

Regular first pilots will receive from $717 to $920, as against an old range of $627 to $830. Master copilots will receive yearly wages of $5 to $55, bringing their monthly range to $375 to $505. The regular co-pilots' the new scale is $275 to $555, an increase of $35 to $85.

### AFL'S TEXTILE WORKERS WHIP CIO IN ELECTION

Elizabethton, Tenn.—The AFL's United Textile Workers of America whipped the CIO in a collective bargaining election among employes at the plant of the North American Rayon Corporation here.

In an election held by the National Labor Relations Board the AFL union was the victor by a vote of 2,028 to 1917. The victory offers further evidence of the great progress made by the AFL in its organizing drive throughout the South.

### SEASONAL FARM DECLINE CAUSES EMPLOYMENT DROP

Washington, D. C.—Civilian employment dropped 609,000 to 58,894,000 in the week ending November 29, the latest decline in farm work.

The Census Bureau reported the total was the smallest since last May.

Unemployment, consequently, rose, 86,000 to a record of 50,000.

The farm total went down to 7,926,000 as a consequence of the shrinkage that has taken 2,508,000 off the workers' list since the spring farming season last June.

Nonfarm employment decreased also, going down 66,000 to a total of 1,621,000, the lowest level in well over a year.

### SLEEPING CAR PORTERS BEAT RIVAL CIO UNION

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters withstood successfully an attempt of the CIO to supplant it as bargaining representative for employes of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

The AFL union won an election ordered by the National Mediation Board and soundly trounced the rival CIO affiliate. The count of ballots gave the Sleeping Car Porters an 81 to 36 victory.

Prior to the CIO's attempt to "muscle in," the AFL union acted as bargaining representative for the employes who participated in the election.

## Green Says League's Goal Is Real Mandate From People

## Conference On State Labor Legislation Recommends Repeal of Anti-Labor Laws

Washington, D. C.—The National Conference on Labor Legislation adopted a report vigorously criticizing restrictive state labor legislation and urging prompt repeal of the laws.

The conference was attended by state labor commissioners and representatives of organized labor. The session was the 14th held under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The report of the committee on state industrial relations gave a strong recommendation for the labor legislation passed by the various states during the last few years. It said in recommending the repeal of the oppressive measures:

"This legislation wipes out traditions and customs that have prevailed for many years. It tends to deny to the workers the right to enter into union agreements with their employers. Many workers are thus denied the right of collective bargaining. In addition, government by injunction sometimes results. Injunctions are permitted to practice intimidation, engage in espionage, and, in short, return to the old law of the jungle that prevailed prior to the enactment of legislation guaranteeing the workers the right to organize and bargain collectively."

Included on the industrial relations committees were Lewis G. Hines and Arthur J. Goldberg, representatives for the AFL.

In addition, the conference adopted a report emphasizing the need for basic standards for state child labor legislation and for interpreting them into state laws. The committee also stressed the importance of strengthening and extending the coverage of the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The conference was expressed concern over the problem of employment, lack of schooling and child-labor problems affecting children in families who migrate from state to state in search of jobs in industrialized agriculture.

It was further recommended that all laws relating to wage-earners be brought before the State Department of Labor. The committee in charge of this subject described the laws which it felt should be enacted in the states.

A detailed report was adopted on safety and health and workmen's compensation.

The conference agreed to set up in simple form a program of information on how the work of the International Labor Office bears on state laws.

For the first time a discussion of the work of the ILO was listed as a topic on the agenda for the conference. The importance of the states' role in promoting the adoption of world labor standards was stressed by Under Secretary of Labor David A. Morse who acted as head of the U. S. delegation to the recent conference of the ILO held in Geneva.

Other speakers who told of ILO activities were J. J. Anderson, Wisconsin employer delegate, and Forrest H. Shuford, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor.

## Labor Attorney Says Taft-Hartley Law Aiding 'Reds' By Promoting Conflicts

Jackson, Miss.—Joseph M. Jacobs, Chicago labor attorney and counsel for many AFL unions, declared the Taft-Hartley law does not contribute to the ridding of Communists from the American labor movement.

"The new law actually protects Communists and promotes class conflict instead of industrial harmony," Jacobs declared in an address before the Mississippi Bar Association.

"The law," said Jacobs, "has singled out union members as individuals different from all other creatures in our republic. It says union officers and members must file anti-Communist affidavits when no one else must file such statements; disruptionists and mischief-makers employed by a union cannot be fired out of a union shop; the Ku Klux Klan, the City of the Galveston Central Labor Union, Labor Temple, 218 Twenty-third Street, Galveston, Tex."

Mr. Green has reported gratifying results from the drive to raise the $200,000 goal. He emphasized the need for more contributions to secure the full amount of the fund-raising effort.

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## State Survey Reveals Industry Favors Older Workers for Loyalty, Productivity

New York City.—Encouragement for American workers is provided in a report stating that they are considered by industry to be more loyal, steadier and more productive as younger employes.

The report, which was based on a survey conducted by a New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Problems of the Aging, investigators for the committee began their study two months ago with the knowledge that almost 25 years half of America's citizens will be over 45. Fifteen percent will have passed the 65 mark. Certain basic social and economic problems will result, the report said, and it added:

Through the committee, New York State is now preparing the answers to future questions, the report indicated.

In the study a thousand employers responded to questions. Large and small, they reached the overwhelming conclusion that the older worker pays from a dollars-and-cents point of view almost as well as—and not a bad deal more than—the younger and not a liability. They found old persons more experienced, more conscientious and less distracted than younger workers.

Four employers queried believed older workers produced as much as younger ones; only one out of eight thought youth had the edge on experience to productivity. Seventeen persons believed the older worker was more loyal and conscientious than the younger employe, while 40 percent termed the former as loyal.

In the face of findings like these, the report said, "the big job ahead is for industry to do a personnel engineering job on its older workers so it will know exactly what kinds of jobs the elderly can perform best. This involves not only scientific testing of old folks but also a breakdown of the duties of the thousands of different jobs in industry."

For its immediate objectives the committee will seek to determine to what extent industry discriminates against the aged and to single out the possibilities for encouraging the employment of older workers on part-time terms. It will also look into the possible need for revising the workmen's compensation law to encourage the hiring of older persons.

## 7,407 UNIONS FILE DATA UNDER TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Department reported 7,407 national and local unions filed financial and organizational statements required under the Taft-Hartley law.

Failure to submit such information, along with affidavits of union officers that they are not Communists, bars a union from using National Labor Relations Board facilities. The most important of these is the right to file charges with the NLRB.

The Labor Department, which received the financial and other data, said 69 of 106 AFL international unions and 5,726 AFL locals have filed the data. Twelve of 41 CIO international unions and 321 CIO locals have registered. A total of 445 independent unions and 763 locals affiliated with independent unions has submitted the data.

## *Blasts NAM Advocacy Of Longer Workweek As Phony Position*

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green declared the purpose of Labor's Educational and Political League is to "obtain a real mandate from all the American people in the 1948 elections."

Speaking on the AFL's regular radio program, Mr. Green said that failure of millions of citizens to vote in the last election made it possible for the "forces of greed and reaction" to capture control of Congress.

"We are trying to bring about a house-cleaning in Congress," he said, "a much-needed eviction of those false representatives of the people whose only loyalty is to big business and great wealth. We hope to defeat all of them."

The AFL president hit at the National Association of Manufacturers for the stand taken at its recent meeting in favor of a lengthening of the workweek and the elimination of overtime pay after 40 hours a week. He declared:

"Not a word was said at this convention about the crying need for reducing the cost of living. On the contrary, the National Association of Manufacturers is interested in proposing practically all of President Truman's recommendations for halting inflation. About the only suggestion from the NAM is a plan to increase production and bring prices down was an endorsement of a longer work week.

"Of course there is a hidden joker in the NAM plan. It would take the trouble to examine the facts, to will find that there is nothing in the Fair Labor Standards Law or in any union contract that limits working hours to 40 a week. On the contrary, labor in this country would be glad to work longer than 40 hours a week to increase production. The only requirement in law and in union contracts is that overtime rates must be paid for work in excess of 40 hours a week.

"Naturally, the NAM will say that they favor increased production costs and therefore prices. That is not accurate, to say the least. One will find that they are interested in realize that a manufacturing plant, operating on a 40-hour basis is bound to gain considerable savings in overhead if the workweek is lengthened. For instance, its rent bill and its property taxes would not be increased. In our experience, we have found that the savings available to industry in a longer workweek are more than sufficient to absorb the entire cost of overtime pay.

Mr. Green cited NAM's "line" as an example of the type of propaganda that labor's people organization will have to combat in their efforts to reveal selfish aims of the American people.

Despite the tremendous wealth behind the NAM and the millions which it spends for organization work each year in newspaper advertising and other forms of publicity work, Mr. Green said labor, too, must enter the field and spend money to win support.

"If labor hopes to combat these powerful forces arrayed against it, we, too, will have to engage in newspaper advertising and other presentations in order to expose the propaganda of the reactionaries and to bring home the truth to the American people."

Such activities will cost a good deal of money, Mr. Green declared, but Educational and Political League will have to depend on the dollar bills contributed voluntarily by individual union members and through their friends in order to raise that money.

The league also intends to finance the voting records of all members of Congress regarding legislation. These records will be published and made available to voters in their districts.

"Let me make it clear that if a Taft-Hartley Congressman is a friend in freedom of labor, as well as free enterprise and democ," the national chairman of the league, I may also say that to obtain the endorsement a candidate for Congress must show a real concern for labor's rights and for securing our country a better place to live in for the American people."

## FOOD CO-OPS BEAT CHAIN STORE PRICES IN EAST

New York City.—Food cooperative stores are underselling chain stores with the large food store chains in the east. This was revealed in a shopping comparison in 4 eastern cities.

In Boston, the co-op bill was ten cents less than the chain store bill. In New Haven the co-op total was 20 cents less. In New York the co-op was five cents behind the chain and in Washington the totals were the same.

The weekend menu from a New York newspaper was used as a basis for the choice of goods to be shopped.